

PUBLIC



## **Derbyshire Partnership Forum**

Committee Room 1  
County Hall  
Matlock

27 June 2014

### **Agenda**

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising
3. Addressing Skills Issues in Derbyshire – update from the March 2014 workshop
4. Housing, Health and Social Care
5. Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service - Service Plan (2013-2017), Sustainability through Collaboration - Joy Smith, Chief Executive
6. Reducing Poverty in Derbyshire - Workshop
7. Any other business
8. Date of next meeting (s)
  - Friday 26 September 2014
  - Friday 5 December 2014

**NOTES** of the **DERBYSHIRE PARTNERSHIP FORUM** held on 14 March 2014 at County Hall, Matlock

**PRESENT**

Councillor A Western  
(in the Chair)

<b>Amber Valley Borough Council</b> J Townsend	<b>Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire &amp; Leicestershire Chamber of Commerce</b> G Cowcher
<b>Big Lottery Fund</b> M Rowe	<b>EPM Technology</b> G Mullholand
<b>Chesterfield Borough Council</b> D Reddish	<b>Erewash Borough Council</b> L Poyser
<b>D2N2</b> K Woodward	<b>NHS Erewash CCG</b> F Bharmal
<b>Derby College</b> L Curd	<b>Erewash Voluntary Action</b> P Edwards
<b>Derbyshire Constabulary</b> Inspector S Fairbrother	<b>Financial Action &amp; Advice Derbyshire</b> B Parker
<b>Derbyshire Dales District Council</b> D Bunton	<b>North East Derbyshire District Council</b> J Weston
<b>Derbyshire County Council</b> S Eaton S Goodwin F Horsley M McElvaney E Michel I Stephenson I Thomas R Weetman J Wildgoose	<b>Rural Action Derbyshire</b> S Green
	<b>South Derbyshire District Council</b> F McArdle

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor D Allen (DCC), S Allinson (Tameside and Glossop CCG), L Allison (Amber Valley Borough Council), Councillor P Bayliss (Derby City Council), H Bowen (Chesterfield Borough Council), G Boyle (Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust), Councillor S Bradford (Amber Valley Borough Council), P Brown

(Bolsover District Council), N Caldwell (High Peak CVS), J Clayton (Bolsover District Council), Councillor C Corbett (Erewash Borough Council), C Cottam (Health and Safety Executive), Councillor J A Coyle (DCC), M Creedon (Derbyshire Constabulary) S Frayne (Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service), Councillor K Gillott (DCC), C Hodgetts (Department for Work and Pensions), M Hussain (Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust), S James (Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust), J Jaroszek (Erewash Borough Council), Dr Fu-Meng Khaw (Public Health England), J Lee (Links CVS), S Lee (North East Derbyshire District Council), Councillor A I Lewer (DCC), D Lowe (DCC), W Lumley (Bolsover District Council/North East Derbyshire District Council), K MacLeod (Derbyshire Probation Service), K Mahay (Derbyshire Constabulary), R Marwaha (Erewash CCG), N Moulden (Derbyshire Dales CVS), J Pendleton (North Derbyshire CCG), Councillor B Ridgway (DCC), Rev H Southern (Churches Together in Derbyshire), S Turner-Saint (Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust), L Wallace (Community and Voluntary Partners), Councillor B Wheeler (South Derbyshire District Council), and M Young (DCC)

**1/14**        **MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2013 were confirmed as a correct record.

**2/14**        **DRAFT DERBYSHIRE PARTNERSHIP FORUM WORK PROGRAMME** At the last meeting, members had participated in a workshop session which had sought to identify issues and challenges facing partner organisations, issues or themes that would benefit from a different and/or joined up approach, and practical ideas as to how these could be taken forward jointly in the future.

An analysis of the table discussions had been undertaken, and a range of issues and challenges had been identified – the effect of changing demographics, budget reductions, system changes, information sharing, workforce issues, the reliance of volunteers in some organisations, sustainability of services, transport, and the need to support a strong and thriving economy, underpinned by the availability of a skilled workforce. An over-arching theme related to the role of the Partnership Forum in providing leadership to do things differently, and to work across organisational boundaries. Partners had also highlighted the need to ensure that the Forum provided a setting for organisations to gain a better understanding of what others were doing.

A number of other key themes had emerged as priorities that would benefit from a different and/or joined up approach, and could be taken forward in partnership. It had been felt that anti-poverty and social exclusion was an area where the potential for a joined up approach could bring significant benefits to individuals and communities, and it had previously been agreed to

set up a time limited task and finish group to take forward the work on the development of an Anti-Poverty Strategy.

A second key theme was enhancing community resilience, and partners had recognised the importance of ensuring that individuals, families and communities had the right tools available to become more resilient. It had been suggested that the Partnership Forum could focus on understanding the impact of preventative services, building social capital and regeneration within communities, and the need to ensure that evidence from the Thriving Families project was fed back to the Forum when available had been recognised.

Partners had identified a number of health issues where it had been felt that there was potential to work better across organisational boundaries. In conjunction with the Health and Wellbeing Board, it was felt that further work could be undertaken to prioritise the list of issues, ensuring that any proposals avoided duplicating elements of the Health and Wellbeing Board work programme.

The need to tackle worklessness across Derbyshire had been identified, and it had been recognised that whilst a significant amount of work had already been undertaken, there was the potential to do more. The need for greater partnership working with the private sector was important, as was the need to co-ordinate services better to ensure maximum impact. Skills issues had also been identified as a potential priority, and there was to be a workshop to develop a shared understanding of the skills agenda.

Partners had previously agreed that a small agenda setting group be convened to ensure that the work programme for forthcoming Forum meetings was focused and relevant. Alongside this, feedback from the workshop had been analysed and a draft work programme had been developed:-

June 2014	Innovation in public service delivery
September 2014	Community resilience
December 2014	Worklessness
March 2015	Health

**RESOLVED** to (1) note the outcome of the Working Together for a Better Derbyshire workshop which had taken place on 13 December 2013; and

(2) endorses the draft work programme outlined above.

**3/14**      **REDUCING POVERTY IN DERBYSHIRE** Actions to support the reduction of poverty across the county had emerged as a key priority for the Forum. At the last meeting, partners had approved proposals to extend the development of the County Council's anti-poverty strategy across the broader

partnership, and it had been agreed that a time limited Task and Finish Group be established to support the development of the draft strategy and implementation of associated action plans.

The Task and Finish Group had met, and as a result of initial discussions, draft terms of reference had been developed alongside a brief for work on strategy development. Initial work on the development of the anti-poverty strategy had confirmed a number of key themes to focus on – financial inclusion and capability, child poverty, health inequality, fuel poverty and affordable warmth and employment and skills. These would form the basis of strategy development moving forward, and in addition to the key themes, a number of cross cutting issues were starting to emerge, including sustainability, challenge and good practice.

Whilst the strategy would need to link into, and not duplicate, work that was already taking place, there was concern that the current partnership response was fragmented. There was a lack of understanding about the totality of activity taking place across the county, and concern that potential opportunities could be missed. Given these concerns, the group had agreed that a good understanding of existing work taking place would be crucial in identifying priority actions for the Forum to lead and take forward. An electronic survey had been developed and this had recently been circulated to all partner organisations and other relevant agencies working on the agenda. The survey had gathered information on current activity, potential gaps in services and barriers and issues that existed. Partners had been asked to provide examples of success stories to ensure that where possible, good practice could be identified and shared.

The Task and Finish Group had met again to analyse the results of the survey. Whilst it was recognised that the results were not fully comprehensive or representative of all activity taking place, they did provide an emerging baseline of evidence which would be used alongside key information relating to poverty across the county. This work would provide the foundation for the identification of priority actions. Those organisations who were known to be providing support to reduce anti-poverty, but who had not yet completed the survey, would be contacted to ensure that the results reflected the range of activity being undertaken. The results would be circulated to partner organisations shortly.

It had been the intention that a draft strategy for consultation would be available for partners to consider. Whilst a significant push had been made to achieve the deadline, ensuring that the strategy reflected existing activity had been felt to be important by the Group in developing a baseline for partners. Individual Group members had been tasked with developing sections of the strategy, and a draft would be considered at the next meeting of the Task Group at the end of March. It was noted that, to ensure progress on the

development of the strategy continued, work would need to be conducted outside of scheduled Forum meetings, and it was recommended that a draft of the strategy be circulated to partners for consideration at the earliest opportunity and that a final draft with relevant action plans be presented to the next meeting of the Forum for approval.

**RESOLVED** to (1) note the progress made on the development of an anti-poverty strategy for Derbyshire;

(2) approve proposals to circulate an early draft of the strategy in advance of the next meeting of the Forum; and

(3) receive a report on progress and a final draft strategy for approval at the next meeting of the Forum in June 2014.

**4/14**      **HOUSING, HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE** Following the Housing, Health and Social Care seminar in October 2013, the Health and Wellbeing Board had agreed that a time limited Working Group be established to provide strategic direction and support for the actions identified at the seminar. The Group had met recently, and the aim of the first meeting had been to agree the terms of reference for the Group and the areas of work where it could add value. It had been agreed that the Group should focus on the areas where it could help in coordinating activity, addressing barriers or providing new insight and ideas.

There had been a focus at the meeting on the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) and the role of planning in delivering the Lifetime Homes Standard. There had been no representation at the meeting from a housing developer, but it was agreed that this was crucial in making progress on the Lifetime Homes Standard and that further work would be undertaken to engage them in future developments.

The key actions agreed at the meeting included exploring the potential to take a pledge through the DPF for sign up by District/Borough Councils to improve the DFG process and to achieve better outcomes for residents; sharing best practice on the delivery of the DFG; exploring the use of personal budgets for the DFG; scoping out potential guidance for planners in relation to the Lifetime Homes Standard; exploring the potential for better integration of housing options service with the DFG process; encouraging all District/Borough Councils to respond to the current consultation on Housing Related Support; and District/Borough Councils to explore the implications of changing the process of receiving a request for a DFG and this fit with the housing advice model within each area. The Group had felt that there were existing mechanisms to take forward the actions. However, it was agreed that at least one further meeting of the Group would take place to consider

progress in relation to the areas of work and provide a steer for the development of the planning guidance.

**RESOLVED** to note the update from the Housing, Health and Social Care Working Group.

**5/14**        **ADDRESSING SKILLS ISSUES IN DERBYSHIRE** The Forum entered into a workshop session to discuss addressing skills issues in Derbyshire. Prior to the workshop, the Forum received presentations from Graham Mullholand (EPM Technology), George Cowcher (Chamber of Commerce), and Katrina Woodward (D2N2).

**6/14**        **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS** The dates for future meetings were:-

- Friday 27 June 2014
- Friday 24 September 2014
- Friday 5 December 2014

**DERBYSHIRE PARTNERSHIP FORUM**

**27 June 2014**

**ADDRESSING SKILLS ISSUES IN DERBYSHIRE**

**1. Purpose of the report**

To provide an update on the Addressing Skills Issues in Derbyshire workshop which took place on Friday 14 March 2014, and to outline current and future activity which will address the key themes that emerged.

**2. Information and analysis**

On 13 December 2013, partners attended a Working Together for a Better Derbyshire workshop to look at issues and themes that would benefit from a different or joined up approach whilst identifying practical ideas on how these could be taken forward. A key priority emerging from the workshop, tackling worklessness and skills, was considered essential. Partners recognised that, whilst a significant amount of work was already taking place, there was the potential to do more. The need for greater partnership working with the private sector was important to this, as was the need to co-ordinate services to ensure maximum impact.

On 14 March 2014, members of the Derbyshire Partnership Forum (DPF) participated in a workshop session on Addressing Skills Issues in Derbyshire which sought to develop a shared understanding of the skills agenda and to identify:

- Issues relating to the delivery of the skills agenda across Derbyshire;
- The key challenges in delivering skills priorities;
- Gaps in current provision and understanding;
- Opportunities to work together to do things differently and to add value to current activities.

The session started with three presentations which set the scene. These were as follows:

- D2 Employment and Skills Board perspective – Graham Mulholland Chair D2 Employment and Skills Board;
- Local business perspective – George Cowcher Chief Executive Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire Chamber of Commerce;
- Local Enterprise Partnership perspective – Katrina Woodard Skills Development Co-ordinator D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership.

Analysis of the table discussions has since been undertaken. A range of issues, challenges and gaps were identified. These are included in Appendix 1 of this report and are summarised below.

- Young people need to be provided with appropriate **careers guidance** at an earlier age than currently;
- Young people need to be **prepared for work** and appreciate the expectations that employers will have;
- **Career pathways** for each industry need to be defined so that young people have a clear expectation of how they can progress;
- Further work needs to take place to provide and improve the **links between schools and employers**;
- It is particularly important that young people have **knowledge of life skills** e.g. money management, as these are fundamental;
- Further support needs to be given to people in **rural areas** who are unable or find it difficult **to access training and employment opportunities**;
- **Supporting people with poor health** to move into and maintain employment with retraining if required is essential;
- There is a need to increase the **knowledge of Head Teachers** about business so that young people are prepared for the future world of work.

The following opportunities to work together to do things differently and add value to current activities were also identified:

- Utilising the existing skills of partners to work together to develop a buddying/mentoring programme;
- Encouraging young people to engage with the National Citizen Service programme and consider having Citizenship Champions in schools;
- Strengthening the role of school governing bodies to include a specific governor responsible for the skills and employment agenda;
- Adapting the Derby Manufacturing University Technical College model into the schools and college system.

### **3. Next Steps**

A number of the key issues raised are now being taken forward through work that is currently taking place or is planned to take place as follows:

- Derbyshire County Council is currently in the process of developing a Youth Employment Strategy for Derbyshire;
- D2N2 have invited submissions for the development of a scoping exercise to model a D2N2 Employability Framework. This framework will aim to increase employment opportunities, raise career aspirations and insights, and provide school leavers with tools to enable job-readiness and give local employers the confidence to employ our young people;

- The D2N2 Strategic Economic Plan has a commitment to produce an escalator to employment to bring people into the labour market. This will build upon the good practice already in place to link together traineeships, apprenticeships and other interventions, so that young people can see all the access points;
- The National Careers Service contract commences in October 2014 and this includes brokering employers into schools as part of the contract.

It is anticipated that the information from the workshop will be used to inform the above activities further and it is recommended that an update on progress be provided at the next meeting of the Forum in September 2014.

#### **4. Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Derbyshire Partnership Forum:

1. Notes the summary of the Addressing Skills Issues in Derbyshire workshop which took place on 14 March 2014;
2. Receives further updates on future developments in relation to worklessness and skills and that a review of progress be undertaken, specifically in relation to the existing and planned activities outlined within the report.

**Ian Stephenson  
Chief Executive  
Derbyshire County Council**



### **ADDRESSING SKILLS ISSUES IN DERBYSHIRE**

#### **Feedback from Discussion Session**

**14 March 2014**

#### **Issues relating to the delivery of the skills agenda across Derbyshire**

##### **Careers Guidance**

Delegates indicated that it was crucial that young people are supported and provided with appropriate careers guidance, potentially at an earlier age than currently given. They need to be fully informed of the opportunities available to them, what each has to offer and the wide variety of jobs that are available.

##### **Communication and Engagement**

Delegates felt strongly that there is a need to improve communication and a “massive” public relations job to do around the image of young people in the media and the image of work, as programmes like Benefits Street have a negative effect. Delegates agreed that further work needs to take place to reach those disengaged with the skills agenda and also to up skill those in work.

##### **Employers and Schools**

Further work needs to take place to provide/improve the link between schools and employers. Head teachers also need to be encouraged to be more involved with the skills agenda and be provided with correct and consistent information.

Delegates felt that employers are not always necessarily equipped to go into schools. They also felt that employers within communities should be encouraged to inspire people in these communities. There was a perception that some employers may not be succession planning

There appears to be associated attitudes within education sector, with teachers perpetuating the culture and belief that academic is best. McLaren was an example given where young people went on a school trip to the manufacturing plant and a teacher said to one of them “if you don’t behave you will end up working in a place like this”.

### **Readiness for Work**

Delegates felt that there is an increasing need to ensure that young people are equipped, inspired and enthused about moving from a school or university environment into work.

They need to be prepared to work a full working day and appreciate the expectations that employers will have.

It was perceived that there is too much stereotyping, as there are a lot of young people out there with a lot to offer. In contrast there are some young people that lack confidence and cannot engage socially. It was suggested that there are some young people who are confused about the future and it was felt that there is a lack of positive role models to encourage them.

### **Supply and Demand**

Delegates felt strongly that there is a need to address the issues relating to 'supply and demand'. There is a huge demographic gap developing as skilled people retire. Delegates felt that the whole skills agenda is too complicated and bureaucratic and has a focus on academic. It was suggested that there needs to pilot projects at a local level.

## **What are the key challenges in delivering the skills priorities outlined (individual, business or community)?**

### **Aspiration and Motivation**

Delegates felt that individual motivation was a barrier in delivering the skills priorities that employers raised. There is also the challenge of raising both the aspirations of young people and raising community aspiration. There are lower aspirations within some communities across the county which remain low for many cases. Delegates felt there was a need to address the issue of leadership as a whole.

### **Careers Guidance**

Delegates felt strongly that one of the key challenges is to provide excellent and relevant careers advice that is individually tailored to each young/unemployed person. They cited the example of some groups of young people who are disillusioned about the reality of work. They enter into a career for instance hairdressing and have the expectation that they can cut hair from day one. There needs to be a defined career pathway for each industry so that young people have a clear expectation of what is required. These pathways then need to be promoted through schools and training providers and young people need to be supported as they progress through the pathway. It was felt that apprenticeships are not seen as the primary/preferred option by advisers and promoted as a viable alternative to formal academic qualifications. The issues of some University graduates returning back home with no plan in place which results in them having to go into poor low quality work was raised.

### **Employers Skills Needs**

Training providers said that they need to know what skills employers require to be able to adapt training provision, but it has to be recognised that there is a lead in time to providing employers with the skilled people they require. It was felt that the D2N2 skills plan focuses too much on the needs of private sector employers. There

is a concern over the lack of opportunities for young people to undertake part time work such as a Saturday job to gain experience.

### **Funding**

There was concern over the significant budget cuts that will have to be made in the public sector over the next few years and the impact that these will have on future training budgets, particularly as a large number of jobs will be in the health and social care sector.

### **Schools**

It was felt that schools focus on educational attainment, but delegates thought it was important that young people have knowledge of life skills for example money management and other relevant skills. Young people are the key to the future and there is a need to improve expectations and confidence from within the school.

### **Targeted Support**

It was felt that there is a need to assist adults with low or outdated skills to retrain and demonstrate their value to employers. Delegates thought one of the key challenges was to identify the families who need support and/or training to help their families move into employment. There is also a need to support women who have children and those suffering poor health to retrain.

### **Have any gaps been identified (could be in current provision, understanding etc.)?**

There is a need to join up across the system and work in a more integrated manner across all service areas, not only within schools but within businesses and partners.

Delegates felt that there was an opportunity to increase the knowledge of Headteachers about the realities of business, so that young people were prepared for the future world of work. It was suggested that a quarterly seminar with business partners may be a way forward in supporting this approach.

Further work still needs to take place to address problems associated with access to training and employment in rural areas and problems faced by certain employee groups when accessing training and employment. This also needs to take into account the support that people with poor health require when moving into employment and maintaining employment.

It was felt that some employers may not use or have the skills to use social media as effectively as they might to reach and engage with young people.

There is a gap in supporting ex-offenders which could be assisted by linking employers with new providers within Probation.

### **What opportunities are there to work together to do things differently and add value to current activities?**

Delegates agreed that there needs to be a holistic approach amongst partners and for them to sign up to work towards identified high level targets and common goals. It was also felt that there was an opportunity to utilise the existing skills of partners to work together to develop a buddying/mentoring programme.

Below are some specific examples of opportunities to work together and to do things differently.

### **Funding**

Delegates suggested that Healthy Workplace Funding could be used to match funding from the Skills Funding Agency.

Skills funding could be devolved to employers at an earlier stage to give them the opportunity to develop different occupations.

### **National Citizen Service**

The National Citizen Service is a 4 week experience for 16 and 17 year olds where they learn about skills for work and life such as team building, leadership, working with people of different abilities and take on new challenges. It was suggested that the most vulnerable young people need to engage with this as it increases their employability skills. Derby College goes into schools and is talking to community organisations to promote the scheme. It was suggested that it would be useful to have a Citizenship champion in schools. In Erewash they are already looking to have a champion to go into schools. Work is also taking place with the local police who sign post people onto the courses to get them engaged in something worthwhile during school holidays and to get them to understand their communities more.

### **Schools**

Delegates suggested that schools could have hands on events such as team building and other relevant practical skills and that this would help to equip young people for the world of work. Delegates felt that the role of school governing bodies should be strengthened with them having a specific governor who is responsible for the skills and employment agenda.

### **University Technical College**

Derby Manufacturing University Technical College is based on Pride Park and caters for 14-19 year olds. It operates on working hours and the young people and staff work together as work teams. It is linked to industry and offers clear progression routes into higher education, further education and employment. It was suggested that this model could be adapted into the school and college system with employers informing the delivery.

### **Young Enterprise**

Young Enterprise is a large business and enterprise education charity that goes into schools and supports young people to set up businesses by giving them the employability skills they need to succeed in the world of work. The scheme does happen in some mainstream schools and academies, but is mainly in independent schools.

**DERBYSHIRE PARTNERSHIP FORUM**

**27 June 2014**

**HOUSING, HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE**

**1. Purpose of the report**

To provide an update on progress relating to Housing, Health and Social Care integration.

**2. Information and analysis**

Following the DPF Health, Housing and Social Care seminar in October 2013, a time limited working group reporting to the Health and Wellbeing Board was established to provide strategic direction and support to progress identified actions.

The Group met for the first time in February 2014 (chaired by Cllr Allen) with discussions focusing on two key issues: Disabled Facilities Grant and the Lifetime Homes Standard. There is general consensus that these issues need to be driven forward through existing groups and the following is an update on progress on each issue:

**Disabled Facilities Grant**

Work is being taken forward through the DFG Strategy Group, who have prepared a work programme and action plan which has identified 13 areas for improvement including:

- Sharing best practice on delivery of the DFG in order to inform improvements across the county. This has informed the introduction of the new triage service.
- Rolling out a new triage service across the county in partnership with the Home Improvement Agency which aims to improve the DFG process in terms of targeting most in need and improving the time they take to progress.
- Exploring the use of personal budgets for the DFG
- Exploring ways to improve the speed in which Districts are invoiced for work from DCC
- Improve the availability of performance data including service user satisfaction reporting
- Drafting a DFG hardship policy
- Drafting a County-wide DFG Strategy.

**Lifetime Homes Standard**

Work is taking place through the Heads of Planning Group and through direct links with developers who have expressed an interest in moving the issue forward. There are two key pieces of work which are being taken forward at the moment as follows:

- **Scope out potential guidance for planners in relation to the LHS** - This idea is being explored through the county wide Heads of Planning Group. The issue was discussed at the April meeting and members have been asked to contribute their ideas by the end of May. A proposal will be discussed at the next meeting. The aim is to develop common guidance which will feed into LDFs locally. This is a complex issue and one which is exacerbated by the differing timetables for LDFs across the county.
- **Influencing developers** - Working with Steve Midgley, Managing Director of Fairgrove Homes to organise a roundtable with developers from across the county. Mr Midgley has extensive contacts with other developers who have been notoriously difficult to engage in the past. The aim of the roundtable is to develop a collective understanding of the issues in relation to LHS, explore new opportunities for partnership working and work towards a commitment to LHS from the developers to increase the percentage of homes which meet the LHS.

It has been agreed that a final meeting of the time limited task and finish group will be convened to review progress before a report back to the Health and Wellbeing Board in the Autumn.

### **3. Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Derbyshire Partnership Forum:

3. Notes the update from the Housing, Health and Social Care Working Group.

**David Lowe**  
**Strategic Director Health and Communities**  
**Derbyshire County Council**

**DERBYSHIRE PARTNERSHIP FORUM****27 June 2014****REDUCING POVERTY IN DERBYSHIRE****1. Purpose of the report**

To consider and approve the draft Derbyshire Anti-Poverty Strategy for consultation.

**2. Information and analysis**

The rising cost of everyday goods and services, the growing number of food banks in Derbyshire and the impact of welfare benefit reforms on local communities is a growing area of concern for partners. At its meeting in December 2013, partners approved proposals to extend the development of the County Council's anti-poverty strategy across the broader partnership to provide an overarching framework for joint working. It was also agreed that a small time limited Task and Finish Group, reporting to the DPF, be established to support the development of the draft strategy and implementation of associated action plans.

The Task and Finish Group has been meeting on a regular basis to develop the draft strategy which is attached at Appendix A to this report. The strategy is structured around the following four key challenges relating to poverty in Derbyshire:

- Financial inclusion and capability
- Fuel poverty and affordable warmth
- Child poverty
- Employment and skills

The strategy identifies a number of partnership principles in terms of the strategic partnership response, which will be extremely important in guiding the work of partners against a backdrop of reducing public sector resources in Derbyshire over the next three years. The principles are as follows:

- Sustainability
- Challenge
- Good practice and innovation
- Value for money

The combined effort of partners will be required to simply mitigate the impact of poverty on communities across Derbyshire and reducing poverty in the current economic climate will continue to be a significant challenge. However,

in developing the strategy it is recognised that a significant amount of work is already taking place across the county, specifically to support the challenges that are highlighted above. The purpose of the strategy has been to pull this work together and to identify those areas where partners could and need to do more. As such a number of cross-cutting partnership priorities have been developed as follows:

- Develop strong and effective leadership which seeks to reduce and mitigate the impact of poverty in Derbyshire
- Develop and promote a shared understanding of poverty and inequality across Derbyshire
- Address and promote the reduction of poverty through mainstream service delivery
- Maximise household income
- Develop a coordinated approach to tackling food poverty
- Visibly work to tackle poverty and inequality in the most vulnerable communities and groups
- Build community resilience to support people to help themselves

Each priority is supported by a range of high level actions, outlined in the strategy, which are designed to concentrate both effort and resource over the next three years.

### **Next Steps**

A detailed action plan to support the implementation and delivery of the cross cutting priorities will be developed by the Task and Finish Group. In the meantime it is recommended that the draft strategy be circulated to key stakeholders for consultation. A further report on progress alongside the action plan will be presented to the Forum at its next meeting in September 2014.

### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Derbyshire Partnership Forum:

1. Note the progress made on the development of an anti-poverty strategy for Derbyshire.
2. Approve the draft strategy for consultation.
3. Receive a further report on progress and detailed action plan at the next meeting of the Forum in September 2014.

**Ian Stephenson  
Chief Executive  
Derbyshire County Council**